

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-3, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Geiger (U.S. Pat. No. 4,650,190). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a game machine comprising a game board, a game mechanism, and game components. The game mechanism is capable of changing-over, at least between, a first playable state where a first game is playable with an inclination angle of the front surface of the game board of substantially 90 degrees relative to a virtual horizontal plane and exceeding a predetermined angle, and a second playable state where a second game is playable with the inclination angle equal to or less than the predetermined angle. Geiger fails to teach or suggest the game machine recited by claim 1.

Geiger describes a single flipper game where the slope of the playing plate can be regulated to alter the running velocity of the ball. Geiger, Abstract; Col. 2, Lines 45-53. Geiger fails to describe a game machine with a game mechanism that changes over between playable states for a first game and a second game. Further, Geiger is silent as to a first game playable with an inclination angle of the front surface of the game board of substantially 90 degrees.

For these reasons, Geiger does not teach each and every element of claim 1. With regard to claims 2 and 3, Applicant notes that each either directly or indirectly depends from claim 1, which defines over Geiger as discussed in detail above. Therefore, claims 2 and 3 also define over Geiger. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claim 7 recites a game machine comprising a game board, a game mechanism, and game components. The game mechanism is movable between a first playable state wherein an inclination angle of the front surface of the game board relative to a virtual horizontal plane is substantially 90 degrees and exceeds a predetermined angle, and a second playable state wherein the inclination angle is equal to or less than the predetermined angle. Similar limitations are discussed above with respect to claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Geiger does not teach each and every element of claim 7. With regard to claim 8, Applicant notes that claim 8 depends from claim 7, which defines over Geiger as discussed in detail above. Therefore, claim 8 also defines over Geiger. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

#### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 4, 5 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Geiger (U.S. Pat. No. 4,650,190) in view of Borg (U.S. Pat. No. 5,112,049). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes that claims 4 and 5 each directly or indirectly depend from claim 1 and that claim 9 depends from claim 7. Claims 1 and 7 define over the prior art as

discussed in detail above. For at least the above reasons, the prior art fails to teach each and every element of claims 4, 5, and 9. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Geiger (U.S. Pat. No. 4,650,190) in view of what is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes that claim 6 depends from claim 1 and that claim 10 depends from claim 7. claims 1 and 7 define over the prior art as discussed in detail above. For at least the above reasons, the prior art fails to teach each and every element of claims 6 and 10. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

#### **CONCLUSION**

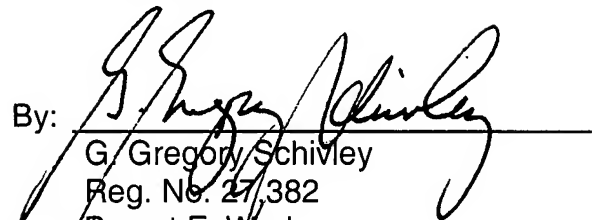
It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

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